Convocation Presents New Survey

The Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson Auditorium contained staff, faculty and (peppered) students this past Thursday to partake of the convoking of Dr. William Flores, the new UHD president. The crowded convocation evoked the same items posed in the discussion by Dr. Michelle Moosally, Faculty Senate President, and Dr. Flores; resources: to avoid disruption, guests seated themselves along the stairs as they listened about different topics: enrollment, parking, retention, hires and retirement. All official announcements as made by Dr. Moosally for Provost Molly Woods who will be stepping down from her position at the end of fall 2009. Dr. Moosally will also be completing her term as Faculty Senate President at the end of this fiscal year.

Changes approaching--as stated by Dr. Moosally--in the coming years include the approved Governor House Bill 2504, which among other things, requires all Texas higher education institutions to place their course information (syllabi) online by 2010. Dr. Moosally also posed the Faculty Senate items that would be addressed this year such as child care needs and see FLORES on page 5

"I Want an Atmosphere Where We can Change Things" Flores Meets with Council of Organizations

Newly elected university president Dr. William Flores heard suggestions from numerous students in ways that UHD could be improved. Dr. Flores heard all suggestions made without exception and encouraged the student to continue to make suggestions whenever they see him. He stated that suggestions should be emailed to him. The Council of Organizations is chaired by Natura Brown, who is also the Vice President of S.G.A. (Student Government Association) and is composed of representatives from all student organizations. Topics discussed at the council of organizations were varied: the end of the UPass, School Spirit, Parking, Student Services, Student Retention and School Prestige.

Dr. Flores reminded the students that UHD is not a rich organization, but “We want to spend it (the money) in the right places.” He also reminded the students that most improvements will become available after they’ve graduated. “Eleven years may seem like a long time; eleven years from now today’s second graders will be entering college.” Dr. Flores made it clear that he intended to build the prestige of UHD. School spirit was discussed by several students. Dr. Flores commented that UHD did not have one place or time for all students to gather.

see S.G.A. on page 5
Letter to the Editor

Should Higher One be in Control of our Funds?

My name is Erik Harris and I am first year part-time student at UHD. I am preparing to file an official complaint with the Better Business Bureau regarding Higher One. Recently, I moved to the Houston area and was laid off and then decided to enroll at UHD. I was expecting a refund from financial aid and was told that my only option in receiving the card was through my Gator Card. So I then ordered my Gator Card through the student activities office and decided to use my rent money to purchase books and pay for classes. Since I was told that I had a refund waiting and it would be immediately available on my card once I received it, I felt it was no big deal to use my rent money.

I ordered the card on August 25 through the SAE and my card was ordered by Higher One to the card manufacturer on August 28. I checked daily to make sure everything was fine with my card through the website, uhdgatorcard.com. It said there was an expected delivery date of September 4.

I called Higher One on two different occasions to make sure that date was accurate and each representative told me it should not come any later than September 4. So I checked my mail daily and today on September 4, I received my mail and there was no card.

I have contacted Higher One three times, contacted the SAE, Financial Aid, Cashier, Business Affairs, and Student Enrollment and no one can help me. My rent was due on September 1 and my landlord has already handed me my eviction notice. Luckily they gave me until today at 6pm to pay my rent and they will waive my late fees and not count it against me. But I still should not come any later than September 4. So I checked my mail daily and today on September 4, I received my mail and there was no card.

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Know Your Options: Successfully Navigating Through Your Core Requirements, Part 1

Rebecca Black

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As a new semester has begun for all of us, some of you may be finding yourselves in classes you already dread. In the chaos of registrations and orientations, you chose a course out of an uncertain sense of obligation. Perhaps Chemistry was the only option you knew of for your science requirement and now, not only do you loathe it, you are also totally baffled and out of your element. Thankfully, there is another option. The common core requirements that we all must endure force each of us to succeed in a variety of science, fine arts, and history courses alongside all of those mandatory English composition and math courses.

Although there is no escape from the Texas legislators' demands on our education, there are some vaguely publicized options that may make these required courses more bearable and quite possibly, even interesting to you. Knowing that not many of us thumb through the UHD course catalog in our leisure time, hopefully this article will give you a better idea of what options you have for next semester. So, let's start off with our chemistry course example. Your advisor more than likely listed your core science options as biology, chemistry, geology, and physics courses. What you may have not known is that there are options within these categories.

There has to be a backup company at the BBB and they have not responded to any of my complaints for delivery issues, refund issues. I researched some of the contracts that Higher One has with other schools and for most of them Higher One is the sole distributor of student funds. That raises not only a delivery issue for me but a service issue as well. Labolutely despise Higher One and I am very disappointed in UHD's choice in making this the only option. I have received debit cards and credit cards much quicker than this. I really hope that this is not the only matter that a UHD student has to experience with the GatorCards in the future and I hope that this situation never happens to anyone else. There has to be a backup system implemented, for students whose cards may get lost in the mail or experience this same situation. Currently, the only option that is available if a card is lost in the mail is to order another card and wait nearly 7-10 business days to receive.

Erik Harris
UHD FRESHMAN

Have you fwd any complications with Higher One? If so, email a letter to the editor at Dateline@gnor.udl.edu. Please review our policy on the previous page.
Like Sardines in a Can

Enrollment Increases during the beginning of Fall 09

Rodney Johnson
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It's about 8 o'clock and you've just arrived at school for an 8:30 class. You figure with half an hour to spare you can grab a bite to eat, look at a few ads in the hall, and get seated, on time for lecture. It all sounds pretty reasonable until you factOr in the first event, parking. Each term, the university is faced with many of the same problems; long lines at the registrar's office, really long lines at the testing center and advising office. On top of all those yearly "norms", before you step foot in the school you must deal with the hassle of parking. Many students, faculty, and visitors complain that there aren't enough parks to accommodate the hundreds of people that enter the universities doors each day.

With people entering and exiting the campus as the day evolves, generally, more permits than parks are sold to provide sufficient access throughout the day. However parking problems arise in the morning, as classes begin, when there are more cars to park than available spaces, then begin decline in the mid to late afternoon. The university takes parking seriously and constantly develops many solutions to decrease parking problems. Under the Chief of Police Vanessa Turner, the university's parking manager, answers many questions concerning parking. "Unfortunately there is always congestion on campus and in parking lots during the first two weeks of the semester as students and parents are on campus finalizing registration, class schedules, financial aid and other university business. However, traffic on and around campus has been unusually high this year due to increased enrollment."

The permits themselves do exactly as their titled; they "permit" holders to park in certain areas, but do not guarantee a spot. Even so, the university assures holders that, "if the parking program is weIl managed.

Fraternities and Sororities

"Frats" at UHD are currently recruiting new members. Each group has its own requirements and duties. For instance, some of the fraternities require 30 community service hours per year. Some only require a membership fee. Students seeking membership in a fraternity or sorority should contact a representative of the desired fraternity or contact the Student Activities & Events Office (S 204).
FLORES
Continued from page 1

creating a faculty handbook. After Dr. Moosally’s time, Dr. Flores began his speech with an opening statement and a powerpoint presentation in his background. ‘For nearly four decades, this university has been a haven of opportunity for Houston and for its students. May the beacon shine bright and light up this great city.’

As the glowing slides transitioned, the ‘UHD Today! Tomorrow?’ sign popped up on the screen and laughs began to accumulate as Dr. Flores states, ‘It’s a good opportunity! I told myself to do it. I’m just putting it all out there. I have the screen and laughs began to gather, ‘What opportunities exist now that we’re not reaching, etc.? If you were president for a day what one thing would you do to make UHD a betterplace?’

When queried about enrollment for the beginning of this semester and the lack of resources i.e., parking, computers, etc., Dr. Flores believes that it will all go away after the first two weeks. ‘Do you think we are going to see [that rush] next week? We are already losing students. If you look at enrollment by the third semester, we lose two-thirds of those students. We got to do a better job of keeping our students. But when we do that job, we have to plan for it."

PARK
Continued from page 4

always be some spots available. Even at peak periods although, at times, those spots may be at the most remote, least desirable lot. ‘The university works day and night to “settle” traffic within the university. Partnering with METRO has allowed a transit stop literally at the school’s front door. Mrs. McLeod always has the presence of UHD, not the UHD administration. Parking was discussed by several students.

The lack of close-in parking was a primary concern. Another student suggested that an elevator needed to be installed into the Shea Street Garage. Dr. Flores agreed that parking could be better, and the Shea street garage needed an elevator. Dr. Flores embraced the idea of a mentoring program for the entire school, with juniors and seniors assisting incoming freshmen with the idea of a mentoring program. Dr. Flores explained that the current honors program is funded by a grant that limits the scope of the organization. One student mentioned the lack of outdoor athletic facilities. The UHD baseball program was also discussed. Dr. Flores explained that the current honors program is funded by a grant that limits the scope of the organization. One student mentioned the lack of outdoor athletic facilities. The UHD baseball program was also discussed. Dr. Flores explained that the current honors program is funded by a grant that limits the scope of the organization.

The new university president Dr. William Flores is shaking hands with Dr. Islam. Professor of Economics.

S.G.A.
Continued from page 1

He explained some of the benefits that ‘School Spirit’ gives the school; he stated his desire to build an alumni base to help support the aims of UHD. ‘Five dollars a month is not much. But what if every UBD graduate would contribute five dollars every month? We could do something with that.” Dr. Flores commented that the ending of the U Pass program (an unlimited bus/ttn pass sold for a minimal fee) was decided by the authorit ies at METRO not the UHD administration. Parking was discussed by several students.

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Lindsay Young
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Lights flashing, cameras rolling and the jazzy blues styles of The Tontons was the spark of interest for a dedicated Houston fan base at the House of Blues on August 31. Originals in the Houston music scene, The Tontons offer something different to the table. With echoing guitars, sad/doldrumming, and lead singer Asli Omar’s voice reflecting that of Billie Holiday, this band brings something new to Houston’s music scene. Houston locals, The Tontons have played themselves through the venues and talked with their fans, truly learning about all that Houston’s scene has to offer. From playing little venues like The Last Concert Cafe and Numbers, the Tontons have reached bigger venues over the years like Warehouse Live and playing in venues during the South by Southwest Music Festival in Austin back in March.

Follow ing these, recently, The Tontons have played Houston’s Summer Fest and are now working on getting out their first video. Supported by The Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau, The Tontons have now made their first video for a song called Leon off of their EP Sea and Stars. Directed by the experienced Ross Wells in Zen Films, this video plans to reflect Houston's wild and exciting night life. With flashes of the city life and a mix of the band's live show, Wells hopes to convey that Houston is ready to take on anyone in this music scene. Shooting at the House of Blues, The Tontons were able to successfully record their first video as well as put on an entertaining show for the fans for free at a nice venue.

However, this music video was not just an opportunity for The Tontons, but also for those who have a desire for two-second fame. According to Wells, the video will be finished by September 10 and on the popular site YouTube not long after. Kot to mention, the eventual goal is to get the video on MTV. Popular with their music full base and the venues around Houston, The Tontons are looking for an even brighter future. Currently signed to the label Esthetic Noise, maybe this can become a possibility.

The only thing left pondering in the minds of the people is whether they will make it or not.

UHD Release

The University of Houston-Downtown is offering courses toward a new degree in social work to help fill the growing need for social workers in the Houston area. Organizers of the program have a plan to produce practitioners with the cultural understanding and skills required to work with diverse populations. According to the C.S. Department of Labor, demand for social workers is expected to increase significantly by 2010. Jo Daughtry, Ph.D., chair of the UHD Department of Social Work, said, "Our program is tailored to meet the diverse needs of our students and the community. We are excited to offer access to a social work degree at the University of Houston-Downtown." The program is designed to prepare students for entry-level positions in social work agencies, hospitals, schools, and other settings. Graduates of the program will be eligible to sit for the licensing examination provided by the State of Texas. The program is designed to be completed in two years and requires completion of 45 hours of coursework. Students interested in the program should contact the Department of Social Work at (713) 226-1000. For more information, visit the UHD website at www.uhd.edu.

New B.S.W. Degree Available at UHD

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As Simple as the Number Three

The film 9 was first an Academy Award winning short of the same title by director Shane Acker. The short took the "non-verbal Wall-E" route while the new seventy-nine-minute feature consists of an entire ensemble. Although the voice acting adds to the experience of the film, the action, mystery, and originality of 9 evokes what a post-apocalyptic world might look like for robotic rag-dolls. The vision and execution is memorable, but the western style of storytelling deviates this new feature from the original charm of the short. The characters are quite easy to remember since each is named a number between 1 and 9.

In each of these characters, there is a distinction in traits and attitude. 1 (Christopher Plummer) is the leader of the clan who advises the others not to engage the enemy. Ultimately 2 (Vincent Ladau), 3 & 4 (who don't speak), 5 (John C. Reilly), 6 (Crispin Glover), 7 (Jennifer Connelly), 8 (Fred Tatasciore) & 9 (Elijah Wood) attempt to stop "The Machine" who caused this apocalyptic reality and "creates new machines in its image". Throughout the movie Y'KN;ee the unraveling of truth, deception, and lies from the lives of robots made of fabric and metal that are small enough to fit in your hand. 9 is more of a mystery movie with large elements of action and solving this mystery is what keeps the viewer so engaged.

Acker and writer Pamela Pettier attempt to answer questions with real sociological imagery. The current events of 9ing place now could bring this apocalyptic type of worship of technology in the present as much as our ancestors worshipped the sun in the past, we are dependent on it without knowing if it would ever turn on us. We are all as insignificant as little robotic rag dolls fighting against domination. 9 is a grown-up CGI film with many messages to convey with commanding visual attention. Sadly, most things are solved from the storyline and not left to the imagination, proving that western storytelling has always been as simplistic as the number three: beginning, middle, end.

Turner states, "Students are certainly encouraged to explore the public transportation options. METRO currently offers a 50% discount to full-time students through their Q-Card program." With gas so high, it may not be a bad thing to look into other means of transportation especially when "going green" is the new chic. For more information on this and other transportation needs, stop by the parking office at 3517 in the Main building.
Outsourcing a job You Don't Have

Aldo Cruz
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Taking into account how hard many of us are working to earn our degree, and then land a great job, it is imperative for us to be aware of all the trends taking place within the job market: what jobs are in high demand, what jobs have a long-term stability, what are the highest-paying jobs, etc. But now, we also need to take into account what jobs are less vulnerable to offshore outsourcing. Offshore outsourcing — as defined by the Texas International Law Journal — is "a business practice that involves shifting the production of goods and services abroad in order to increase efficiency of labor, energy, and other resources of a firm." Have you ever noticed how many products we use contain a label indicating they were made in China? Those products are produced by offshore outsourcing.

Offshore outsourcing began as a business strategy implemented by major manufacturing companies that sought to decrease production costs in order to increase their profits in the long-term. Now, however, we are also experiencing this transition in many jobs that fall under the white-collar category, particularly the information technology sector (data processing, computer programming, and technical support). The main reason jobs in this particular industry are being sent abroad is because of the great amount of money companies can save. For example, according to the consulting firm Cap Gemini Ernst & Young, the average computer programmer in India costs about $20 per hour in wages and benefits, while a computer programmer in the U.S. with a similar technical background, costs $65 per hour. Although companies in the private sector are the ones that tend to engage in this practice, the U.S. government has actually begun to send contracts abroad.

This (particularly) is what has triggered widespread criticism and legislative responses. Aside from having the same negative effects as the offshore outsourcing done by the private industry, by having government contracts sent abroad, (critics believe) this will jeopardize our national security. This is mainly due to the nature of the data the government shares with its foreign contractors. This data can include anything ranging from top-secret projects from the Air Force, to information regarding the infrastructure of a utility company, which in turn can include anything from top-secret projects from the Air Force, to information regarding the infrastructure of a utility company, which in turn is now a distance learning center for the four-year university UHD.

How Enrollment Affected Students
An increase of about 40-percent affected UHD students

Judith Wattley
STAFF WRITER

UHD has a lot of new arrivals for the fall semester of 2009. The obvious change can be seen when a student drives into any parking lot or walking into the building to get to their classes. Fall 2009 has a shockingly large increase of students by 40% compared to previous years and semesters. UHD is the third largest four-year state university in the region with an enrollment of over 12,000 students, and from more than 70 countries. UHD has been trying to boost brand awareness and reinforce the university's identity.

Other incentives that may have contributed to this influx in enrollment at UHD includes competitive tuition fees, offering more degree programs, expanding the number of online courses, and the existence of a joint admission program has enticed many students. All these incentives could be the reason there are so many students at UHD this fall. How will this affect the students at UHD now? Although UHD’s incentives attracted more students this semester, more students mean fewer resources. There will be fewer computers available, less parking spaces, fewer textbooks, less access to the library, and most importantly limited financial aid.

However, with drop dates approaching many students that have commented saying "these people will not be here long, let’s just wait until after the drop dates." How many students are really going to stay? Like every semester, there are more students in the beginning and after the drop dates they disappear along with the financial aid. With more students does that mean more students will drop? Most of these students have financial aid and if they drop they would be receiving 50% to 70% of their money back. That financial aid could have gone a long way for another student who really wants to go college. If the student population continues to increase, UHD could have a new problem on their hands.
Students Voice Concerns On Healthcare Reform

"As many as 1.7 million college students lack health insurance coverage," which was reported by the Government Accountability Office (GAO). Bates himself will be uninsured come November because he will be off of his parent’s plan "which is kind of scary".

In the same GAO report, "certain groups of students, including those who attend part-time, are older, are members of racial or ethnic minority groups, or whose families are low-income, are more likely to not have coverage." For healthcare reform and rally supporter Amy Carabes, a freshman in the Lone Star College system, this is a profile of her current situation. "Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicaid and Medicare can only cover so many age groups and [college students] are pretty much left behind. My parents never took me to the doctor ro get checkups; [now], I am overweight and doctors are saying I am at risk for heart disease and diabetes. I finally realized I needed good healthcare and now my healthcare is up because I am eighteen."

These students reflect the college population that is typically covered by their parent’s medical insurance, but Carabes’ situation is one that arises for many Hispanic college students. According to a pew Hispanic research report, “More than one-fourth of Hispanic adults in the U.S. Jack a usual health care provider, and a similar proportion report obtaining no health care information from medical personnel in the past year.” Now that she is eighteen, she is part of this demographic. With college students supporting healthcare reform, there are some that are against it. Amy McCarrher, a student at the University of St. Thomas and rally supporter against (this particular) healthcare reform bill states that she is against healthcare because it would support funding for abortion. “Abortion is genocide and I feel the need to stand against it whenever I can.” says McCarrher who wore red.

Wilbert Chinchilla
MANAGING EDITOR

The divide on healthcare reform isn’t lessening focus on the national stage where college students are active on both sides and no resolution has been reached. On September 3rd, a healthcare reform rally was taking place at the reflecting pool next to Houston’s city hall and among the supporters, for and against healthcare reform, college students were making their presence known by screaming and chanting the same jargon as their adult counterparts.

The divide was blatantly affirmed by the organizations present: Texas Right to Life, The National Right to Life, Service Employees International Union, ACORN, and Democratic and Republican Representatives. Instantaneously reaching the rally, arguments were arising with supporters who (pessimistically) end their debates by saying, “good discussion”. Where does this discussion leave Houston, which has the highest uninsured rate of any U.S. city, and college students who are not covered and need (some form of) healthcare? "for a lot of people that go to college nowadays, healthcare is very expensive for them to afford. Schools provide health care and add it to our tuition, but it’s too expensive. Some students have had to leave school because they had to pay for something they got hospitalized for," says Bradley Bates, a student at the UH-Main and supporter at the rally for healthcare reform.

Supporters for healthcare reform at the rally light candles that gave representation of the truth. Supporters against the healthcare reform bill proposed by Barack Obama have faced much criticism for misinforming the public.
Continued from page 9
in support of the Texas Right to Life. Note, the healthcare reform bill is not currently finalized and some items are still in discussion. Colleges across the country like the University of Maryland are implementing a mandatory requirement of being covered. Due to the recent swine flu outbreaks and its current threat as a pandemic, colleges like The University of Maryland are requiring all incoming freshman this semester to have coverage.

Healthcare reform will affect college students directly or indirectly. With this war-like back lash, students and their families will need some form of coverage whether they like it or not. As the rally supporter's chanted "we don't want Obamacare" or "Jesus healed the sick", a supporter for health reform was taken away by an ambulance as he suddenly began grabbing his chest and hyperventilating. The dusk began to set and the crowd was dwindling, this man by the reflecting pool seemed to be debating whether to be carried by the stretcher and taken to the hospital. All stakeholders i.e., patient and paramedics were seen enacting what could be the result of this bill being passed or not passed; the stretcher or the road.

**CARE**
Continued from page 9
9/8/2009 1:30PM
8/2009 3:30PM
Location: O’Kane Theater (One Main Building, 3rd floor, Room N-364).
Open to faculty, staff, and students.
Contact Information:
name: Thomas Lyttle, Professor of Arts & Humanities
Phone: 713-221-8118
Email: LyttleT@uhd.edu

**RAW**
O’Kate Gallery University of Houston-Downtown RAW brings together Doug Cason, Mark Greenwart and Lisa Qualis, three Houston artists who combine classical drawing and painting techniques with contemporary concepts and materials. The artists draw on their knowledge of world history and traditional technique to combine humanistic values within current social and political issues.

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**Meet Houston’s Candidates for Mayor**

**’09 Mayoral Forum**

**Time**
6:30 P.M.

**Location**
cullen Robertson Auditorium
Third Floor, Academic Building

Panelists
Academic Reps (c/o Social Science Department Cha La Adolfo S. Wang)
Student Reps (t*m:SGA Pd<ot L.. ur.1 Sanchez.
M-da Rep) c/o Hai VI News Slg (time from moore 9:00 P. or)

**Wednesday, September 30, 2009**

Open to the public

Contact uhd.hsfs@gmail.com for more information on how to join. No fees our first meeting will be

**Hispanic Scholarship**

**Benefits**
* Part of a national network
* Community for Latinos on campus
* Impact local community through outreach

**Contact Information:**
name: Thomas Lyttle, Professor of Arts & Humanities
Phone: 713-221-8118
Email: LyttleT@uhd.edu
Greener Gators
An Eco-conscious Column

In the last issue we told you what we were about. We mentioned some of the general goals that we have; here’s a quick refresher:

Increasing the environmental awareness of UHD students, faculty, and staff

Translating the heightened awareness into measures implemented on campus

Transcending our influence to the metropolitan and greater Houston area

Ultimately becoming informed, active, passionate proponents of the "Green Movement"

Greener Gators is a collective group of individuals who wish to help in making all of these programs successful, and we also need for people to participate in these FREE programs. We kindly ask that you join us in this noble cause by contacting us at: GreenerGators@gmail.com

We want to hear from you, if you’re interested or not. Tell us what you want to get done on campus, what ideas you have for becoming green, and if you just have a simple question about recycling. Even if it’s not a question, just e-mail us to tell us that you read this.

With wishes for a hurricane-free season,
Greener Gators

Green Tip:
When driving at those super-sonic speeds on the highway (>45mph), use the ac to cool the cabin, and then just keep the fan running. Try it!

The Greener Gators are seen taking a boat tour of the Buffalo Bayou. Because of the University President’s Climate Commitment, this collective will seek out ways to make UHD a greener campus in the Houston metropolitan area.

In the wrong hands would all allow terrorists to strategically target substations and black out an entire region. Seeing as how the practice of offshore outsourcing only leads to numerous consequences, it’s imperative for us as potential employees (and current students), to acquire skills that will make US companies dependent on us. By doing so, we will ensure that companies don’t lay off thousands of workers, in exchange for cheap labor they can find across the Atlantic.

Gain Experience
Get Published
Get Paid

Complaints / Rqnts / Ideas
dateline@gator .uhd.edu

Submissions do not guarantee publication.

Career Expo Success Strategies: Make Your Resume Pop
9/2/2009 5:00 PM-6:00 PM
Location: UHD Career Service Office, 340-N (One Main Building, North Side, 3rd Floor).

B.S.W.
Continued from page 6

applicants receive priority consideration.

Founded in 1952, the Council on Social Work Education is a nonprofit association representing individuals, and both undergraduate and graduate programs for professional social work education. The association's Council for Higher Education Accreditation is the sole accrediting agency for U.S. social work education.

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Submissions do not guarantee publication.

The Greener Gators are seen taking a boat tour of the Buffalo Bayou. Because of the University President’s Climate Commitment, this collective will seek out ways to make UHD a greener campus in the Houston metropolitan area.

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